6th February 1925]

The Srirangam Temple.

The Srirangam temple.

* 168 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the committee appointed by the Government to report on the question of urgent repairs to the Srirangam temple has sent their report; if so, what action, if any, has been taken on the report;

(*b*) if no report has been sent whether the Government appointed or intend to appoint any one in the place of the hon. Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur; and

(*c*) whether any report has been received by the Government from any of its officers at Trichinopoly as to the nature and probable cost of the urgent repairs that are necessary?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The hon. the Revenue Member having been appointed to the Committee by virtue of his office, no further appointment is necessary.

(*c*) A report has been received from the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar:—"May I know the probable cost of the urgent repairs that are necessary?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"I am sorry I have not the information by me."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar:—"May I know if the Government propose to budget for the amount during the next year?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks:—"I propose, Sir, to summon this committee as soon as practicable and as soon as I have an opportunity of studying the subject myself. It is a most voluminous one and I have not seen the report."

Village Establishments.

Tanjore District Village Officers' Conference.

* 169 *Q.*—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolutions passed at the Tanjore District Village Officers' Conference held on 12th October 1924 at Mayavaram; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Several of the resolutions are on the question of cancelling the recent re-grouping of villages. This matter is under consideration. The resolutions on other topics have also been considered, but the action suggested in those cases does not commend itself to Government.

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar:—"Sir, I think there was a resolution passed at the Village Officers' Conference with regard to the frequent summoning of

the village officers to taluk offices. Will the Government be pleased to issue a circular that the village officers should not be frequently and unnecessarily summoned to the taluk offices?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I think an exhortation to that effect has been given several times, and I do not know if it will be of any practical use to repeat it."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"Will the Government please see that their exhortations are acted upon?"

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know if the Government will decide the matter of re-grouping before the budget discussion?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I cannot say that for certain. The matter is under consideration. There is also a resolution tabled on the subject. It is not possible for me to say now what will be done."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know how long this matter has been under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I think it has been under consideration from the time this Council passed a resolution about it. I cannot say exactly for how long it has been under consideration."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know what is meant by 'under consideration'? I suppose there are various stages in a matter being under consideration. If I remember right, the predecessor of the present Revenue Member was pleased to say that the only delay was on account of some hitch or trouble about providing their very places for men thrown out by re-grouping. I am speaking from memory and I may be wrong. I want to know whether that hitch has been got over and whether it has reached a further stage in the process called 'under consideration'."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"A Bill has been drafted and the Government have arrived at certain provisional conclusions on the matter. But as this Council has tabled a resolution on the subject the Government are awaiting the result of the discussion of that resolution before coming to a final conclusion."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"As the resolution referred to as tabled has very little chance of coming up in the near future and as the budget presentation is not very far off, may I, on behalf of the 17,000 men who have been removed from office, request the Government to expedite the matter? It is an exhortation more or less."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Certainly, there will be no avoidable delay in the matter."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know in what respect the Government have carried out the desire of the Members of this House regarding cancellation of regrouping of villages?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether with regard to the cancelling of the re-grouping of villages the special officer has reported and that the Government think that an amending legislation is necessary before effect can be given to the resolution of this House?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Yes, Sir."

that period and according to the notification they will have to pay increased rate if they fail one year. Some of the students might have made provision only for the amount of money which they will have to spend for five years according to the then rate. Now, if in the middle of the course they are asked to pay more it will really be a hardship. Sir, Government ought to have known by this time that it is not possible, nay almost impossible, for the medical students to go through the course in five years; because it is generally eight years and usually it is ten years Sir, we have got four University examinations to pass in five years and each examination consists of a number of compartments and in each subject we have got papers to answer practical and oral examinations to sit for and if in any of these a student is ploughed he will have to stay for six months more if not one year. It will be a very great hardship if you ask that student who is to go through the course for eight years or ten years to pay according to the increased rate. Moreover the examinations cover there a period of twenty days or so and even the bright students get ill by the strain of the examination and I have known cases where the students were detained on that account. I know in some cases in the course of the twenty days of examination death occurred in a family and stopped a student from appearing for the examinations. In such cases it is not reasonable to ask them pay more. The notification provides only for the whole term. Even if the student fails in one subject he will have to pay Rs. 100 for that subject while he is paying only Rs 15 now. Taking these things into consideration, I hope the hon. Minister will see that the grievances of the medical students to-day are redressed. Sir, I know the hon. Minister has come down to do some good to the medical students and I hope he will also do the same thing here."

*The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, the recommendation contained in the resolution is to the effect that the students of the Medical College who before the issue of the notification for revised fees were admitted into the college should be allowed to study paying the fees at the same rate at which they were charged before the notification issued. As was pointed out it is true that the rates were at Rs. 120 before the notification issued and later on it was raised to Rs. 200. The reasons why the rates were increased were the same as in the case of the other colleges here, viz., that the rates were found to be low. Now, Sir, my hon. Friend from Madras has asked me why the rates in 1914 were low and later on they were increased and he asked me for the reason why they were increased. The reason is obvious."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I know whether the fees in the Law College were increased ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :— " I am informed that there has been an increase even in the case of the Law College."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it in the same proportion ? "

*The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I am not quite sure whether it bears the same proportion, but there has been an increase. Sir, on account of these increases my hon. Friend has asked me if the college has not become unpopular. I must say that it has not become unpopular; because if you take a census of the students who seek admission you will find that they are too many to be admitted.